

## A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF HYDROTAEA (DIPTERA).

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The larval habits of most of the species of the anthomyid genus *Hydrotaea* are unknown, but practically all of those that are known feed in manure. The present species is a notable exception though it probably feeds upon detritus in the nests where the larvae occur.

### *Hydrotaea nidicola* n. sp.

*Male and female*.—Shining black. Face whitish dusted; inter frontalia of female red-brown; orbits in both sexes glossy black. Thorax very faintly pruinulent, not noticeably vittate. Abdomen of female entirely glossy black, of male gray pruinulent on dorsum and with a very faint black central line basally. Wings hyaline. Calyptres and halteres yellow.

*Male*.—Eyes almost imperceptibly short haired; frons at narrowest part about as wide as third antennal segment, interfrontalia not obliterated at middle; arista subnude. Prealar bristle absent; three pairs of closely placed presutural acrostichals present. Abdomen elongate ovate. Both fore femoral thorns short and stout; fore tibia little excised basally, without a median posterior bristle; mid femora without outstanding ventral bristles; mid tibia with one or two anterodorsal and two posterodorsal bristles, and no series of short erect hairs on anterodorsal surface; mid tarsus normal, without outstanding fine hairs; hind femur with a short stout spur close to base on ventral surface consisting of two closely contiguous bristles the apices of which are flexed, the anteroventral surface with three or four bristles on apical fourth; hind tibia with closely placed long setulose hairs on almost the entire length of anteroventral and posteroventral surfaces, and two anterodorsal bristles basad of which there is a series of short setulae extending to base of tibia, calcar long; hind tarsus normal. Wings normal, last section of fourth vein about 1.75 as long as preceding section; first posterior cell hardly narrowed apically.

*Female*.—Frons a little less than one-third of the head width; ocellar triangle glossy, extending to middle of frons. Prealar short but distinct. Fourth visible tergite fully twice

as long as third. Short anterodorsal setulae on hind tibiae less conspicuous and the anteroventral setulae less numerous than in the male, the posteroventral surface bare; mid tibia without a ventral bristle. Length 5 mm.

Type, male, and allotype, reared from nest of robin.

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This species will run down to the segregate which contains *occulta* Meigen in my key to the males of *Hydrotaea* published in the BULLETIN of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, 1916, p. 109, but is readily separated by the armature of the hind tibia. From *comata* Aldrich, which it resembles also, it may be separated by the absence of long hairs from the basal segment of mid tarsus. It differs from any European species known to science in several respects.

The female differs from all three species with yellow halteres included in my key to females of this genus which appeared in the same journal, 1918, page 32, in being entirely glossy black.

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**Velia watsoni Drake—A new Record.**—This species was described by Dr. Carl J. Drake, from Gainesville, Fla. As he justly observes in comment on his new species, it closely resembles *V. stagnalis* Burm., for which it may easily be taken, being deemed a slightly larger and darker colored specimen.

I seem to have no other records than that of the original description, the type locality. I have, however, just received a specimen of the species taken by Mr. F. M. Schott at Bridgeton, N. J., on March 23, 1924. This locality, nearly 700 miles north of the original place of capture, shows the wide distribution of this species. Bridgeton is on the edge of the pine barrens, in a marshy, swampy section. This record is another evidence of the austral character of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey.—J. R. DE LA TORRE-BUENO, White Plains, N. Y.